



J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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March 7, 2006

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *tm*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **IMPROPER ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATIONS FOR COMPLETION OF
CPR TRAINING AT KING/DREW MEDICAL CENTER – CASE #2006-
0219 – BOS #05-054**

On November 8, 2005, the Board requested the Auditor-Controller (A-C), the Health Authority Law Enforcement Team (HALT), and County Counsel to work with the District Attorney's (DA) office to determine the possibility of filing criminal charges against a nurse manager at King/Drew Medical Center (KDMC). Specifically, an anonymous informant alleged that Virginia Williams, Nurse Manager at KDMC, was selling cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) cards to KDMC employees, without providing the required training course and written examination, or mandating that employees demonstrate their ability to administer effective resuscitation.

This allegation was anonymously reported to the Los Angeles County Fraud Hotline on August 12, 2005, but did not name a suspect. The A-C's Office of County Investigations (OCI) subsequently referred this case to the Department of Health Services (DHS) on August 18, 2005. Pursuant to OCI's referral, DHS' Audit and Compliance Division (A&CD) and HALT conducted a single "sting" operation against Ms. Williams as part of an integrity audit, performed testwork on various CPR training files and rosters of participants, and conducted interviews with staff from the KDMC Nursing Education Center, and a sample of nurses and physicians. A&CD issued their final report to the DA, County Counsel, A-C, and HALT on February 2, 2006.

Ms. Williams was placed on a 30-day suspension on November 2, 2005, and this investigation has been the subject of significant media attention. Consequently, it appears unlikely that additional investigative work or further sting operations would

develop new evidence of misconduct. Since the decision to prosecute rests solely with the DA, we have concluded our involvement with this case. OCI Investigators remain available to assist DHS and the DA if they later determine that additional investigation of these allegations is needed.

Please call me or your staff may call Marion Romeis at (626) 293-1400 if you have any questions.

JTM:MR:RC:MC

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c: Marion Romeis, Chief, Office of County Investigations